CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A spring tensioning mechanism comprising:

a support bracket;

an axle, supported by the support bracket;

an outboard plate, disposed adjacent to, and secured to, the support bracket;

an inboard plate, disposed adjacent to the outboard plate;

a spring, disposed around the axle, having a first end secured to the inboard plate and a second end operably connected to the axle.

2. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 1 further comprising a clocking feature on the outboard plate.

3. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 2 wherein the clocking feature on the outboard plate comprises a pin bore.

4. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 1 further comprising a clocking feature on the inboard plate.

5. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 4 wherein the clocking feature on the inboard plate comprises a pin bore.

6. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 1 further comprising a pin bore in the outboard plate and a corresponding pin bore in the inboard plate.

7. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 1 wherein the inboard plate comprises at least one receiver.

8. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 7 wherein the receiver has the shape of a hollow square tube.

9. A spring tensioning mechanism comprising:

a support bracket having a substantially-planar main panel having an axle bore disposed therein;

an axle, disposed orthogonally to the substantially-planar main panel and passing through the axle bore and having a drum secured thereto;

an outboard plate disposed inboard of the support bracket and secured to the support bracket;

an inboard plate disposed inboard of the outboard plate;

a spring, disposed around the shaft, having a first end secured to the inboard plate and a second end secured to the drum.

10. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 9 further comprising a clocking feature on the outboard plate.

11. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 10 wherein the clocking feature on the outboard plate comprises a pin bore.

12. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 9 further comprising a clocking feature on the inboard plate.

13. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 12 wherein the clocking feature on the inboard plate comprises a pin bore.

14. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 9 further comprising a pin bore in the outboard plate and a corresponding pin bore in the inboard plate.

15. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 9 wherein the inboard plate comprises at least one receiver.

16. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 15 wherein the receiver has the shape of a hollow square tube.

17. A spring tensioning mechanism comprising:

a support bracket having a substantially-planar main panel having an axle bore therein, and a mounting panel disposed orthogonally to the main panel;

an outboard plate having a bearing therein disposed inboard of the support bracket and secured thereto by at least one fastener;

an axle, supported by the bearing and having a drum disposed thereon, disposed orthogonally to the substantially-planar main panel and passing through the axle bore;

an inboard plate disposed inboard of the outboard plate having a set of receivers disposed adjacent to the perimeter thereof; and

a coil spring, disposed around the shaft, having a first end secured to the inboard plate and a second end secured to the drum.

18. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 17 further comprising a clocking feature on the outboard plate.

19. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 17 further comprising a clocking feature on the inboard plate.

20. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 17 further comprising a retaining pin shaped and sized to lock the radial orientation of the inboard plate with respect to the outboard plate.